

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated November 18, 2008, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 3-8, 11, 19-26, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Wu (US 6,275,575) in view of Hogan et al. (US 5,483,587) and Culbreth et al. (US 5,953,393) further in view of Palmer et al. (US 5,546,324). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Applicant respectfully submits that the current amendment renders the rejection moot.

Claim 1 as amended recites, *inter alia*, “wherein the call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to the future audio conference request submitted by a user establishing the future audio conference lacking at least one additional future audio conference call party number for at least one participant party.” None of Wu, Hogan, Culbreth and Palmer teaches or otherwise makes obvious this feature. Wu was relied upon for establishing the teleconference and teaches establishing the teleconferences in Figures 8 and 9A. These Figures and the associated description in Wu do not teach or suggest “wherein the call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to the future audio conference lacking at least one additional future audio conference call party number for at least one participant party.”

In the Examiner’s response to arguments, the Examiner cites to column 10, lines 30-34 of Wu. This section relates to whether responses have been received from participants. The participant responses are not employed until after the conference call has been scheduled and the time for the conference call arrives. Claim 1 is directed to rejecting a future audio conference request based on the request itself lacking a future audio conference call party number. The section of Wu cited by the Examiner deals with initiating calls to participants, and does not relate to rejecting the future audio conference request in response to the future audio conference lacking at least one additional future audio conference call party number for at least one participant party. Wu is concerned with participant replies, not the content of the future audio conference request.

Since none of Hogan, Culbreth and Palmer cures the above-identified deficiencies of Wu, the combined teaching of Wu, Hogan, Culbreth and Palmer does not teach or otherwise make obvious claim 1.

Further, claim 1 recites “wherein upon expiration of a pre-determined timer setting, indicating that the conference call is to be placed, the call control engine retrieves the future audio conference request information from the conference call database, the future audio conference request information including an entry for the conference call and a timer, the expiration of which indicating that the conference call is to be placed thereby enabling the call facility to begin placing audio connections; wherein the call control engine sets up the future audio conference upon at least one of the expiration of the timers in the timer facility, and a polling of the conference call database to determine whether it is time to retrieve the future audio conference request information and set up the future audio conference.”

By contrast, the cited section of the Office Action, that is Figure 9A, col. 10, lines 34-43, teaches “At 902 *a determination is made as to whether all the responses have been received from the selected participants or if a pre-established time limit for receipt of those responses has expired.* Upon receipt of all the responses or expiration of the pre-determined time interval, the responses are processed and the processed information is forwarded to the coordinator at 904. At 906 a determination is made as to whether the final instructions/conformation has been received from the coordinator. At 908 the coordinator *may select timed initiation 910 of the telephone conference* or manual initiation 912. At 914 the control script for the telephone conference server is generated and forwarded and the process is concluded.” It can clearly be seen that Wu’s time limit refers to a time during which responses to whether or not the participants wish to be included in the call and *after which* the coordinator then decides to initiate the call. In contrast, the timers in Applicant’s claimed invention are set once all participants have been identified and the meeting set. The timers then expire to actually start the conference call.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Wu does not teach or otherwise make obvious claim 1. Since none of Hogan, Culbreth and Palmer cures the above-identified deficiencies of Wu, the combined teaching of Wu, Hogan, Culbreth and Palmer does not teach or otherwise make obvious claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Wu in view of Hogan and Culbreth and Palmer. Claims 3-8, 11 and 25 depend from Claim 1.

Claims 19 recites “wherein the call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to the future audio conference request submitted by a user establishing the future audio conference lacking at least one additional future audio conference call party number for at least one participant party” and “retrieving the database entry, including a timer, the expiration of which indicating that the conference call is to be placed, at the future meeting time, in response to at least one of an expiration of a timer in a timer facility, indicating that the conference call is to be placed, the timer being set when the future audio conference request is created by the host party, and a polling of the conference call database to determine whether it is time to retrieve the future audio conference request information and set up the future audio conference.” As noted above, none of Wu, Hogan, Culbreth and Palmer teaches or suggests these features. Thus, claim 19 is patentable over Wu, Hogan, Culbreth and Palmer. Claims 20-22 depend upon Claim 19.

Claims 23 recites “wherein the call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to the future audio conference request submitted by a user establishing the future audio conference lacking at least one additional future audio conference call party number for at least one participant party” and “retrieving the database entry, including a timer, the expiration of which indicating that the conference call is to be placed, at the future meeting time, in response to at least one of an expiration of a timer in a timer facility, indicating that the conference call is to be placed, the timer being set when the future audio conference request is created by the host party, and a polling of the conference call database to determine whether it is time to retrieve the future audio conference request information and set up the future audio conference.” As noted above, none of Wu, Hogan, Culbreth and Palmer teaches or suggests these features. Thus, claim 23 is patentable over Wu, Hogan, Culbreth and Palmer. Claim 24 depends upon Claim 23.

Claims 26 recites “wherein the call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to the future audio conference request submitted by a user establishing the future audio conference lacking at least one additional future audio conference call party number for at least one participant party” and “retrieving the teleconference information at the teleconference date and time, in response to at least one of

an expiration of a timer in the timer facility, the timer being set when the future audio conference request is created by the host party, and the timer expiring when the conference call is to be placed, and a polling of the conference call database to determine whether it is time to retrieve the future audio conference request information and set up the future audio conference.” As noted above, none of Wu, Hogan, Culbreth and Palmer teaches or suggests these features. Thus, claim 26 is patentable over Wu, Hogan, Culbreth and Palmer. Claim 28 depends upon Claim 26.

Claims 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Wu (US 6,275,575) in view of Hogan et al. (US 5,483,587), Culbreth et al. (US 5,953,393) and Palmer et al. (US 5,546,324) further in view of Roy (US 6,697,341). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

It is respectfully submitted that Wu in view of Hogan and Culbreth and Palmer and further in view of Roy do not teach or otherwise make obvious Claims 1, 3-8, 11, 19-26 and 28, either individually or in combination.

Roy fails to cure the deficiencies of Wu and Hogan and Culbreth and Palmer as discussed above with reference to Claim 1. Claims 9 and 10 depend from Claim 1 and are patentable over Wu and Hogan and Culbreth and Palmer in view of Roy for at least the reasons advanced with respect to Claim 1.

Claims 29 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Wu (US 6,275,575) in view of Hogan et al. (US 5,483,587), Culbreth et al. (US 5,953,393) and Palmer et al. (US 5,546,324) further in view of Buskirk, Jr. (US 6,178,183). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

It is respectfully submitted that Wu in view of Hogan and Culbreth and Palmer further in view of Buskirk, Jr. do not teach or otherwise make obvious Claims 1, 3-8, 11, 19-26 and 28, either individually or in combination.

Buskirk, Jr., fails to cure the deficiencies of Wu and Hogan and Culbreth and Palmer as discussed above with reference to Claim 26. Claims 29 and 30 depend from Claim 26 and are patentable over Wu and Hogan and Culbreth and Palmer in view of Buskirk, Jr. for at least the reasons advanced with respect to Claim 26.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicant. Accordingly,

reconsideration and allowance are requested. If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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